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Parks and Recreation

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2728 East 171st Street
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To: Westfield Board of Works

From: Melody Jones

CC: Todd Burtron

Date: October 18, 2012

RE: Park Improvements as of October 2012

Dear Board Members:

The Parks and Recreation Department has spent much of October playing catch up and preparing for cold weather and the end of 2012.

The parks maintenance crew is keeping up with lawn care on the two downtown properties we own in Grand Junction.

Last week, the Fire Department hosted training drills in the vacant property on Jersey Street. I understand it went very well.

PARKS

In the six parks with new entrance signs, those areas have been re-seeded and fertilized.

Irrigation, drinking fountains and restrooms will be closed down before the end of October.

Asa Bales

The timing sensors on the lights at the Skate Park in Asa Bales Park have been replaced and are now working properly.

On September 21st we had a minor vandalism problem when a plastic soda bottle was caught on fire and melted a small place on the vinyl topped picnic table in shelter #1. There was no repair cost.

Freedom Trail

Repairs were made to the gates on the stone parking lot after being backed into during a football game. There was no repair cost.

Simon Moon

Two ceiling mounted lights have been installed in the shelter at Simon Moon. To operate they must be plugged into a generator. This has been very helpful on the evenings we host Fire Side Tales.

The 23 trees that were growing in the Department's tree farm, at the River Road Water Plant were moved and planted on The Hill. An additional 28 trees will be planted on The Hill in the next two weeks. Eight dead trees have been removed from The Hill.

The Hill has been sprayed for weeds and over seeded; as has the old trail area at the foot of the Hill.

TRAILS

Both the Monon Trail and the Midland Trace Trail crack and seal projects have been completed.

Monon Trail

Construction of the Monon Trail pedestrian bridge over 146th Street is on schedule. The decking for the bridge should begin this week.

VS Engineering has finished with their plans for Phase 3A (drainage work and paving from 161st Street to Oak Ridge Road). Plans now are to complete this project in the spring.

On October 4th the Mayor was notified that Westfield will receive an additional \$764,473 in TE Grant funds to help completed the Monon Trail.

Tree maintenance continues to be done along the trail. We have had two trees down due to storms.

Midland Trace Trail

We have not received the Quit Claim from Kroger at this time. We have communicated with the Indianapolis real estate office but they have no idea when the property will be gifted.

Natalia Wheeler Trail

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We lost eight Ash Trees along the trail to the Emerald Ash Bore. Signs of the bore are now in every park. As we plan for future tree plantings we continue to add diversity to our forest.

Special Events or Programs

We are partnering with City Spring Church to bring a “Movie in the Park” event to Asa Bales Park, Friday, October 19th. Show time is 7PM. The movie will be Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax”. Hope you we are not rained out.

Westfield in Bloom (WIB) will be sponsoring the Downtown Business Holiday Lighting Competition again this year in connection with Westfield in Lights (WIL). The competition will kick off at WIL and run through December 20th. This year’s winner will be announced on the 21st.

The last Fire Side Tales will be on October 24th. We had over 80 people attend that last event.

The last Seeds of Knowledge workshop is scheduled for November 14th at the City Service Center. The Mathematics of Gardening is the topic for the discussion.

On Saturday, October 13th we hosted a Tree Pruning Workshop, at City Hall. Many of the trees along the new ramp system had been damaged during construction. We had nine attendees and completed the work in just a few hours.

Our last event of the year will be Race to the New Year. This is the 8th year we partnered with the Hamilton County Parks Department and the Washington Township Parks Department. Special thanks to Westfield Police and Fire Departments for their continued support of this event.

The Parks and Recreation Department will start training with the ActiveNetwork team in January. We hope to go live with the programing and scheduling system in March.

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